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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Howard W. Morgan
Application No.: 10/664,114
Filed: 09/13/2003
Title: Filter With Snap-Fit Filter Bag
Group/Art Unit: 1724
Examiner: Minh-Chau T. Pham
Attorney Docket No.: 135-103 Filter

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the office action of Sept. 3, 2004.

Claims 1 – 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan, Jr. (271), in view of Bounnakhom et al (810). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

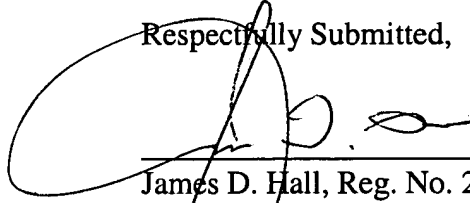
The primary reference, Morgan (271), discloses a filter assembly comprising a vessel having a side wall, a bottom wall, an inlet port, and an outlet port for fluid flow through said vessel. However, the primary reference contains no disclosure of a groove formed in the vessel sidewall located between said shoulder and said outlet as claimed in the application. Thus the primary reference, Morgan (271), lacks the requisite components disclosed in claim 1 of the application.

Bounnakhom (810), discloses, as an alternative embodiment, a lip (not a groove as stated by the examiner) 44 which is part of the filter element 24, an offset portion 88, and a channel 92 formed in seal 29. Portion 88 does not fit into anything let alone in channel 92 as stated by the examiner but rather lip 44 fits into the channel. None of this has anything to do with the vessel sidewall, nor is there any explanation what this all has to do in the Bounnakhom filter assembly. There is no groove in the vessel sidewall as claimed found in Bounnakhom.

Thus, the primary reference, Morgan, has no groove to receive the lip 44 of Bounnakhom. Also the lip 44 of Bounnakhom is orientated inward, which is the wrong direction relative to the location of any groove in the vessel sidewall. In the application, the rib(s) fit into a groove in the vessel side wall to provide for a secure location of the filter element within the vessel. In the application, the necessary seal is formed by the fit of the bag ring against the vessel sidewall (application p3, ln 21-23). The lip in Bounnakhom does not help form a seal with the vessel sidewall and thus, there would be no suggestion to combine the lip in Bounnakhom into Morgan.

Accordingly, claim 1 and those claims depending on claim 1 are not rendered obvious over Morgan (271), Bounnakhom (810), or any other patent referred to in this office action.

Respectfully Submitted,

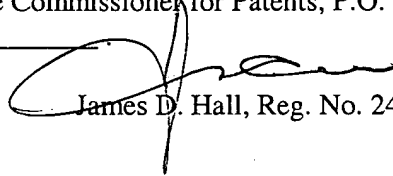
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. D. Hall', is written over a horizontal line.

James D. Hall, Reg. No. 24,893
Botkin & Hall, LLP
105 E. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 400
South Bend, Indiana 46601
Phone: 574-234-3900
Fax: 574-236-2839
Attorney for the Applicant



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the U. S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 2 Dec. 04

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Hall".

James D. Hall, Reg. No. 24,893